

r/HFY · Posted by u/Actually_Viirin 6 hours ago

Agents of Chaos

OC OC

"That's usually wholly unnecessary", the communications officer said dejectedly.

"Usually? This time it isn't unnecessary?" the visiting auditor asked.

The communications officer turned his head to lessen his degree of rudeness. "Do you know what my job entails? How I get the Diplomatic Council its intelligence reports?"

The auditor barely reacted. Though his body language didn't show any sign of interest, his pheromones showed mild insult while he remained quiet long enough for the communications officer to get uncomfortable.

The communications officer wiggled an antennae. "Once we find trace of a technological species, we map out the movement of the stars, and go back along the pathway their planet moved through, intercepting their broadcasts throughout their entire history back to their first transmission."

The auditor's body language slumped slightly. "Yes, yes. Most initial technologies send out a dirty signal in every direction that only gets wider over time, and as the civilization advances it becomes targeted. Continue."

"Well sir, this species doesn't seem to have genetic memory. Each individual has to learn things individually."

"That sounds ridiculous. How else does a species achieve spaceflight if they aren't able to do anything themselves?"

"According to our media translators... it's precisely the fact that every member of their species is forgetful, many things are forgotten by everyone on their entire planet, and everything else is misunderstood."

"Speak more clearly."

"No member of this species knows what is going on at any time, and everything they try to pass on to the next generation is misinterpreted. But somehow, their messages aren't so confused that the attempt doesn't serve a purpose."

The auditor's cerebral cortex felt like it was melting. "Go back to your previous statement. You know full well a report saying 'things are forgotten' is insufficiently descriptive. What kinds of things?"

"How their own bodies work, how to move blocks of stone, what is or isn't edible, various languages, the location of continents, whether or not a city is real or fantasy-" the officer could have continued but didn't due to the auditor's pheromones, which now stank.

"You're telling me that we've found a species with no hivemind, no genetic memory, no immortality, in a permanent state of confusion?"

"Precisely, sir. That's why I said usually wholly unnecessary. Talking to them directly for context is required. However, they did develop exterior components that do have perfect memory storage recently."

"Finally some good news. At least now we'll be able to ensure that the First Contact can proceed without all of these issues. I assume they use their exterior components to the fullest effect?"

The communications officer was being audited, so he couldn't shy away from his obvious embarrassment. "No sir. They mostly use them for pornography and cartoons."

The council auditor's skin changed from its normal neutral brown to a shimmering iridescent green. "At least I don't have to deal with them."

The captain, quiet until now, spun around in her chair. "Apologies, auditor. You are an auditor."

The man looked to the captain. "You have the highest rank on this ship. You're doing the First Contact."

"I made the mistake before, thinking I was the highest ranked person on the ship when I was still a fleet commander. When a Council Auditor is on board, you're the highest rank."

The auditor's skin looked nearly metallic, signaling his frustration and annoyance.

"I apologize sirs", the communications officer began to say as a sound chimed, denoting that a deadline was reached, "but there's an incoming transmission."